DENNIS HOPELESS • CULLEN BUNN • ARIO ANINDITO • MATT WILSON

HOUSE OF M™

SECRET WARS

MARVEL

004

HOUSE OF M

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD**!

A PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS--AND THEIR KINGS.

MAGNETO RULES THE MUTANT PARADISE OF GENOSHA, HIS DREAM FULFILLED: HOMO SUPERIOR TRULY SUPERIOR OVER HUMANITY, AT LONG LAST. BUT WHEN A SCHEME BY HIS SON, PIETRO, COLLIDES WITH A PLOT BY THE OPPRESSED HUMAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT, MAGNUS' REIGN COMES TO AN ABRUPT END—ALONG WITH THE USE OF HIS POWERS!

PIETRO, WORKING WITH ATLANTEAN KING NAMOR, DECLARES MAGNETO DEAD AND HIMSELF KING OF GENOSHA. QUICKSILVER THEN DEPUTIZES S.H.I.E.L.D. AND ITS ELITE ALL-MUTANT TEAM TO KEEP THE PEACE AT ANY COST.

IN HIS MOST DESPERATE HOUR, MAGNETO IS FORCED TO COLLUDE WITH HIS MOST HATED RIVALS: THE HUMAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT. TOGETHER, MAGNETO AND HIS DAUGHTER, LORNA, DEATH LOCKET, MISTY KNIGHT, FELICIA HARDY AND CLINT BARTON MUST STAGE A PRISON BREAK IN ORDER FOR THE KING TO RETAKE HIS CROWN!

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MONARCHY OF M.
HUMAN REEDUCATION CENTER.

I'M NOT A SUBTLE MAN.

NEVER HAVE BEEN.

I PREFER TO SAY WHAT I MEAN, TAKE WHAT I WANT AND ATTACK MY ENEMIES HEAD-ON.

I CAN ACCEPT BREAKING INTO MY OWN HUMAN REEDUCATION CENTER--

120

--TO FREE AN ARMY OF HUMAN REBELS.

WE'LL NEED THE HELP TO DEPOSE MY TREACHEROUS SON.

AND A KING DOES WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

BUT THIS SNEAKING-IN-AND-AROUND BUSINESS--

--CRAWLING THROUGH THE SHADOWS ON ALL FOURS LIKE A PILE OF RATS...

SO COWARDLY.

SO HUMAN.

IT'S BENEATH ME.

FRAGILE

HAVE TO SAY, PRINCESS, I'M IMPRESSED.

AFTER YEARS OF WATCHING YOUR OLD MAN SMASH AND GRAB LIKE A SPOILED CHILD--

WATCH IT, CAT.

--NEVER REALIZED MAGNETISM COULD BE WIELDED SO DEFTLY.

THANKS.

EVER CONSIDERED GRAND LARCENY AS A CAREER PATH?

HEH.

ABSOLUTELY NOT.

WELL, NEVER SAY NEVER...

IF THIS CRACKERJACK COUP DOESN'T WIN PAPA'S CASTLE BACK--

--I COULD COACH YOU INTO ONE FINE CAT BURGLAR.

REE-ORR-REE-OOR-REE-OOR

REE-OOR

WELL... DAMN.

I GUESS THEY KNOW WE'RE HERE.

NOW THIS IS A PARTY!

LOCK DOWN CELLS THREE THROUGH SEVEN! LOCK 'EM DOWN!

PUSH THEM BACK!

YES, IT LOOKS LIKE OUR BAND OF TRAITOROUS HUMAN INSURGENTS--

--MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE TO EARN THEIR FREEDOM.

EXCUSE ME WHILE I WEEP.

REE-ORR-REE-ORR-

I'M NOT GOING BACK IN THE CAGE!

REE-OOR

MEANWHILE, THESE POOR FOOLS DON'T EVEN REALIZE THEY'VE BEEN BAMBOOZLED--

--INTO STANDING AGAINST THEIR KING.

PFFT. YOU THINK THOSE GUARDS CARE ABOUT KINGS AND CASTLES?

QUICKSILVER WRITES THE CHECKS NOW.

THEY LOOK AT YOU AND SEE ANOTHER FILTHY, POWERLESS HUMAN CAUSING TROUBLE TOO CLOSE TO LUNCH.

NO...

EVERYONE KNOWS--

FATHER! STAY BEHIND ME!

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

TOO *DANGEROUS?!*

LIKE HELL!

THE DAY MAGNETO COWERS IN TERROR--

THWAK

--AT THE SIGHT OF MINIMUM WAGE LACKEYS IN RIOT GEAR--

THMMP

--IS THE DAY I'LL CURL UP AND--

--DIE.

KSSHH KSSHH

HALT!

SEE, WICCAN? I TOLD YOU GRANDDAD WAS STARTING TO SOFTEN UP IN HIS OLD AGE.

I KNOW, RIGHT?

FIRST HE LETS UNCLE PIETRO AND THAT FISHMAN TAKE THE CASTLE FROM HIM.

NOW HE'S LETTING A BUNCH OF HUMANS OUT OF PRISON.

IT'S LIKE MAGNETO THE MERCIFUL UP IN HERE ALL THE SUDDEN.

HEH.

THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU LITTLE SCAMPS.

DON'T MAKE "GRANDDAD" BOX YOUR EARS IN FRONT OF ALL YOUR FRIENDS.

UM... CHILD ABUSE IS SORT OF FROWNED UPON THESE DAYS.

YEAH, AND SINCE WHEN DO YOU NEED ***OUR*** HELP TAKING DOWN A COUPLE OF SENTINELS?

YOUR BELOVED HUMANS SAPPED MY POWERS AS PART OF AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY FAILED TO KILL ME--

--BUT SUCCEEDED IN LEAVING ME VULNERABLE WHEN QUICKSILVER AND HIS GUPPY PRINCE ATTACKED THE CASTLE.

THESE REBELS HAVE AGREED TO HELP RETAKE THE THRONE IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR--

WAIT. WAIT. WAIT. WAIT.

AGREED TO HELP ***YOU?!***

THE GUY WHO KEEPS TOSSING THEM IN PRISON?

FORTUNATELY, THE HUMANS HATE YOUR IDIOT UNCLE EVEN MORE THAN--

BILLY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

MAGIC. YOU ALWAYS TAUGHT US TO WORK SMART, NOT HARD.

I'M GIVING YOU YOUR POWERS BACK.

BILLY, C'MON. YOU'RE NOT MOM.

SHUT UP! I'M DOING IT!

GRANDFATHER, NOW...TRY TO USE YOUR POWERS.

BILLY, YOU DON'T--

I THINK IT WORKED.

YOUR EFFORTS ARE APPRECIATED BUT NOTHING IS--

JUST TRY IT!

I AM TRYING.

OH.

I COULD FEEL IT. LIKE A BLOCKAGE JUST OUT OF REACH.

I'M SORRY, GRANDDAD.

IT'S FINE. YOU TRIED YOUR BEST.

I'M JUST NOT STRONG ENOUGH.

NOT YET. BUT ONE DAY.

WE NEED ***MOM.*** SHE COULD DO IT IN A HEARTBEAT BUT--

QUICKSILVER HAS HER?

YEAH. HE TOOK HER. SHE'S IN THE CASTLE.

WELL THEN...

...WHAT SAY WE GO OVER THERE AND GET HER?

S.H.I.E.L.D.'S GONNA BE ALL OVER THAT PLACE.

YES, IF ONLY WE KNEW A FEW DOZEN MALCONTENTS--

"--WHO ENJOY MIXING IT UP WITH S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS."

LOOK ALIVE, TROOPS.

DON'T WORRY, SHAW. THESE RENEGADES WANT TO MIX IT UP, WE'LL OBLIGE THEM.

I'LL OBLIGE THEM EVEN AFTER THEY'VE SURRENDERED AND START BEGGING FOR MERCY.

CASTLE MAGNUS.

AVENGERS! GO BEAT SOME #$%!

YOU'RE MINE THIS TIME, CAGE!

BRING IT!

KAZAAAT

GAAAHHH!

YAH!

NOT SURE I GOT A CHANCE TO TELL YOU, DEATH LOCKET--

--BUT THIS NEW BLASTER ARM IS--

--SERIOUSLY BADASS.

THOOM THOOM THOOM

THOOM THOOM THOOM

DON'T MENTION IT, MISTY.

THAT'S WHAT I DO.

YOU WERE RIGHT, HAWKEYE.

USUALLY AM.

ABOUT WHAT?

NONE OF THEM RECOGNIZE ME.

NOT EVEN MY RED GUARD. I'M JUST ANOTHER HUMAN NOW.

THNNK

IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE ***KING MUTANT*** TO ME.

NOW GET IN THERE AND KICK YOUR SON IN THE PANTS FOR ME.

WE GOT THIS.

S.H.I.E.L.D. WILL CRUSH THE INSURGENTS.

IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

THEY'RE ONLY *HUMANS.*

WANDA WILL COME AROUND... IN TIME.

THE SIRENS ARE A STOP-GAP.

ONLY TEMPORARY.

NAMOR WILL HELP ME RESTORE ORDER.

THIS WILL *WORK.*

THIS *IS* WORKING.

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SIT IN THE CHAIR.

I'M THE KING NOW.

FATHER'S RULES DON'T MATTER. HE'S *GONE.*

HE CAN'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO. HE CAN'T STOP ME. HE ISN'T COMING BACK.

CLIMB UP THERE AND SIT. IT'S MY CHAIR NOW.

THERE IS NO CHAIR HERE, SON.

THAT--

--IS A *THRONE!*

MY THRONE!

FATHER?!

Y-YOU'RE ALIVE?!

NO GAMES, PIETRO. NO LIES. NOT THIS TIME.

YOU TRIED TO KILL ME FOR MY CROWN.

OWN IT.

NO. I KNOW HOW IT LOOKS, BUT...I WOULD NEVER.

OWN IT.

THE ATLANTEANS WERE INVADING... REGARDLESS OF MY INVOLVEMENT.

I WAS TRYING TO DO WHAT WAS BEST FOR THE DOMAIN. LIKE YOU TAUGHT US.

I WAS... I WAS SAVING OUR PEOPLE FROM A WAR.

YOU TRIED TO KILL ME...

...FOR MY CROWN.

FATHER...

OWN IT!

WAIT NOW...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

YOU'VE BEEN SCREAMING AT ME MY WHOLE LIFE. THE METAL ALWAYS TREMBLES ANY TIME YOU RAISE YOUR VOICE. IT'S UNSETTLING.

BUT THIS ROOM IS FULL OF METAL AND...

HA!

YOU'VE LOST YOUR POWERS, *HAVEN'T* YOU?

YOUR THREATS ARE EMPTY!

YOU WANT ME TO OWN MY ACTIONS, FATHER? YOU WANT--

WRRRRNNNK

YES.

WELL... %^&*.

LORNA?!

HELLO, PIETRO.

YOU HAD IT RIGHT, SON. MY MAGNETISM IS ON THE FRITZ.

YOUR SISTER'S, ON THE OTHER HAND...

AM I MEANT TO BE *FRIGHTENED?*

BY MY *LITTLE* SISTER?

I'M STILL *QUICKSILVER.*

STILL THE FASTEST MAN ON BATTLEWORLD.

STILL THE SON OF MAGNUS.

POLARIS HAS NEVER BEATEN ME AT ANYTHING!

THAT'S TRUE.

BUT IT HAS BEEN QUITE A WHILE SINCE I TRIED.

OH, FOR DOOM'S SAKE.

ENOUGH WITH THE--
--CONSTANT--
--ROYAL--
--POSTURING!
NAMOR!
FATHER, LOOK OUT!
HUAGH!
SMAK!
PATHETIC.
KA-KLANG KLANG
AWW... DID LITTLE SISTER FALL DOWN?
AND I WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR LITTLE FIGHT.
AS YOU SAY...
IT'S BEEN YEARS--
THWAK
--SINCE I GOT TO PUT YOU IN YOUR PLACE.

SHUT UP! SHUT UP! SHUT UP!

HRRRK!

I CAN'T *TAKE* ANY MORE!

NAMOR?! WHAT ARE YOU--

SILENCING YOUR INCESSANT SELF-CONGRATULATION!

YOU DID *NOTHING.* YOU'VE EARNED *NOTHING.*

YOU'RE A SOFT, PAMPERED LITTLE MAN-CALF!

I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE TO KEEP YOU IN YOUR ROYAL VEAL BOX A BIT LONGER BEFORE THE *SLAUGHTER.*

BUT IT SEEMS THOSE PESKY HUMANS HAVE RETURNED TO KILL ANOTHER TYRANT KING.

I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE YOUR PLACE.

BENEVOLENT KING NAMOR WHO BROUGHT PEACE TO GENOSHA.

IT HAS A NICE RING.

PUT MY IDIOT OFFSPRING DOWN.

HEH. STILL PROTECTING HIM, MAGNUS?

EVEN AFTER ALL PIETRO'S DONE?

I'LL DEAL WITH MY SON JUST AS SOON AS I'M FINISHED WITH--

--YOU...

I SEE.

DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR MUST RUN IN THE FAMILY.

KRAK

I SUPPOSE THAT'S UNFAIR.

UNLIKE THE BOY, YOU WERE MY EQUAL *ONCE.*

YOUR ARROGANCE WAS WELL EARNED.

BUT TIME IS A CRUEL MISTRESS WHO EVENTUALLY HUMBLES US ALL.

TODAY IS YOUR DAY, MAGNETO.

"FOR WE ARE EQUALS NO MORE."

WHOA... WHAT'S WITH THE SEXY WATER WOMEN? ARE THOSE--

SIRENS, YEAH. THE AIR IN HERE IS THICK WITH ATLANTEAN MAGIC.

NAMOR MUST BE USING THEM TO--

--KEEP MOM ASLEEP-- *YAAAWWNN*-- SO WHAT DO WE DO?

FIRST THINGS FIRST--

--WE TURN THE MUSIC OFF.

GOOD CALL.

MRRPGH!

THEN-WE-SHOULD-PROBABLY--

--VERY-QUICKLY-AND-RESPECTFULLY--

--PUT-THESE-FISH-TO-SLEEP.

THNNK

THNNK

THNNK

MOM'S STILL OUT.

I'M TRYING TO WAKE HER UP. THAT SIREN SONG IS ***STRONG.***

DO SOME HOCUS-POCUS, THEN.

I'M TRYING.

WELL, TRY ***AGAIN.*** GRANDDAD IS SCREWED DOWN THERE WITHOUT HIS POWERS.

I DON'T...

"IT'S NOT WORKING!"

I COULD END THIS WITH A TWITCH, MAGNUS.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

ONE QUICK SNAP AND YOUR HUMILIATION IS THROUGH.

WAK!

THIS ENDS... *UGH*...WITH YOUR...

...BLOODY CORPSE TWITCHING AT MY FEET, FISHMAN.

VERY WELL, THE HUMILIATION CONTINUES.

GRAND-FATHER--NO!

YES. YES. SPEED IS A POWERFUL WEAPON--

--BUT YOU HAVE TO BE READY--

HUUAGH!

--FOR THAT MOMENTUM TO SHIFT.

AND NOW THE MAGIC MAN... WELL, *BOY.*

HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO DEFEAT ME?

I CAN'T.

HEH. TOO TRUE.

DID YOU HEAR THAT, MAGNUS?

AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY HAS A BIT OF PERS--

WAIT, WHAT IS THIS?

THE BOY SELLS HIMSELF SHORT.

NO!

SEE THERE, FISHMAN?

NAARRGHH!

YOUR BLOODY CORPSE...

...TWITCHING AT MY FEET.

"YOU DID IT, WICCAN! YOU RESTORED MAGNETO'S POWERS!"

"BUT... HOW?"

I DUNNO. THAT TIME I COULD JUST SEE THE PATH.

WEIRD. DO YOU THINK MOM HAD SOMETHING--

OH, YEAH. TOTALLY. SLEEPING OR NOT, MOM'S A BADASS.

KING MAGNUS!

YOU'RE ALIVE?!

OF COURSE I'M ALIVE, SHAW.

RIGHT...OF COURSE. WELL, YOU'LL BE PLEASED TO KNOW, MY KING, THAT THE REBELS HAVE BEEN CRUSHED.

WE HAVE THEM IN CUSTODY.

AH, SO S.H.I.E.L.D. *IS* CAPABLE OF DEFENDING MY CASTLE.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, I SUPPOSE.

ALTHOUGH THESE "REBELS" YOU'VE APPREHENDED WERE WORKING *WITH* ME.

WITH YOU?

BUT THEY--

IT WAS THE ATLANTEANS WHO TRIED TO DROWN ME OUT.

THE ATLANTEANS? BUT THE PRINCE... NAMOR...

IT'S A LONG STORY, SHAW.

MY SON IS A TREACHEROUS NITWIT.

...

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.

VERY GOOD, MY KING.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THESE... ALLIES...OF YOURS?
I WOULD ASSUME WE'RE RETURNING THEM TO REEDUCATION.
OR DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND?
RELEASE THEM.
WHAT?!
THE REBELS...
...YOU'LL LET THEM ALL GO.

GRANDDAD! THAT WAS AWESOME!

YOU FINALLY SEE!

HUMANS AREN'T ALL BIGOTS AND MONSTERS. THEY'RE JUST PEOPLE.

DOES THIS MEAN THINGS WILL FINALLY CHANGE? THAT MUTANTS AND HUMANS CAN LEARN TO COEXIST?

THIS MEANS I OWED A DEBT THAT NEEDED TO BE PAID.

NO MORE. NO LESS.

BUT...YOU JUST...

HOW CAN YOU NOT--

MUTANTS AND HUMANS ARE NATURAL ENEMIES. NO DECREE FROM ME WILL EVER CHANGE THAT.

YOU EITHER WIELD THE WHIP--

--OR YOU TAKE THE LASHES.

NOW, LET'S GO FIGURE OUT HOW TO WAKE YOUR MOTHER.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.

I THOUGHT FOR SURE HE'D THROW ME IN PRISON IF NOT KILL ME FOR WHAT I'VE DONE.

HOW CAN HE LEAVE ME BE?

FATHER HAS TWO SOFT SPOTS, PIETRO, AND YOU HAVE THE DISTINCT ADVANTAGE OF BEING BOTH OF THEM--MUTANT AND FAMILY.

BUT ME?

KRAAK

I INTEND TO MAKE YOU PAY *DEARLY.*

MAGNETO'S PRIVATE CHAMBERS.
LATER.
IN THE END, I SUPPOSE--
--I WAS RIGHT AND I WAS WRONG.
DEADLY CONFLICT, VIOLENCE AND WAR--
--CERTAINLY MAKE FOR A MORE EXCITING WEEKEND--
--THAN BADMINTON, COFFEE AND SCONES IN THE GARDEN.
BUT AFTER A THREE-DAY TRIP BACK TO MY WARRIOR WAYS--
--I KNOW ONE THING FOR SURE.
HEH.
IT'S DAMNED GOOD TO BE KING.
MARVEL

ZONE